

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A polylactic acid resin composition, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

poly-L-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%;

poly-D-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%; and

a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral and one of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid ~~which is bonded to~~ the lamellar clay ~~mineral, and mineral;~~

wherein:

the other of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid ~~which~~ is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral; and

the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.

2. (Currently Amended) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the ~~polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body~~ is ~~a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral~~ is organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group, and the one of said poly-L-lactic acid and said poly-D-lactic acid which is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral through the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt.

3. (Currently Amended) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic

onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for producing a polylactic acid resin composition, ~~characterized by the method~~ comprising:

~~a polymerizing step of mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide~~ having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, and

polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site to obtain a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, and

~~a mixing step of mixing the poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body with poly-D-lactic acid~~ having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, wherein said poly-D-lactic acid ~~which is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral;~~

wherein the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid resin composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.

5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for producing a polylactic acid resin composition, ~~characterized by the method~~ comprising:

~~a polymerizing step of mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide~~ having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, and

polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site to obtain a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, and

~~a mixing step of mixing the poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body with poly-L-lactic acid having an optical purity of at least 85 mol%, wherein said poly-L-lactic acid which is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral;~~

wherein the ratio of said poly-L-lactic acid to said poly-D-lactic acid in the polylactic acid resin composition is from 1:99 wt% to 99:1 wt%.

6. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A molded article comprising ~~characterized in that the molded article is obtained by melt molding and crystallizing a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 1 that has been melt molded and recrystallized which comprises a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral and one of poly-L-lactic acid and poly-D-lactic acid which is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral, and the other of poly-L-lactic acid and poly-D-lactic acid which is not bonded to the lamellar clay mineral.~~

7. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ molded article comprising a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 2 that has been melt molded and recrystallized. ~~according to claim 6, characterized in that the molded article is a polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body consisting of a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group, and one of poly-L-lactic acid and poly-D-lactic acid which is bonded to the lamellar clay mineral through the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt.~~

8. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ molded article comprising a polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 3 that has been melt molded and recrystallized. ~~according to claim 6, characterized in that the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizing monomers~~

~~of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.~~

9. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The molded article according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a stereocrystals ratio $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo})/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})\} \times 100(\%)$, determined from a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is 0.9X% or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that $A + B = 100\%$.

10. (Currently Amended) The polylactic acid resin composition according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizable monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

11. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The molded article according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polylactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body is a poly-L-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body or a poly-D-lactic acid-lamellar clay mineral bonded body, obtained by mixing a lamellar clay mineral organized with an organic onium salt having a hydroxyl group with polymerizing monomers of L-lactic acid and/or L-lactide or polymerizable monomers of D-lactic acid and/or D-lactide, and polymerizing the polymerizable monomers with the hydroxyl group of the organic onium salt as a reaction site.

12. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The molded article according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a stereocrystals ratio $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo})/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})\} \times 100(\%)$, determined from a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is 0.9X% or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that $A + B = 100\%$.

13. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The molded article according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a stereocrystals ratio $\{(\Delta H_m, \text{stereo})/(\Delta H_m, \text{homo} + \Delta H_m, \text{stereo})\} \times 100(\%)$, determined from a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{homo}$) of a homocrystals melting peak and a melting endotherm ($\Delta H_m, \text{stereo}$) of a stereocrystals melting peak measured by DSC measurement, is 0.9X% or more, wherein X is two times the value which is a smaller one of the content (A%) of poly-L-lactic acid and the content (B%) of poly-D-lactic acid, provided that $A + B = 100\%$.